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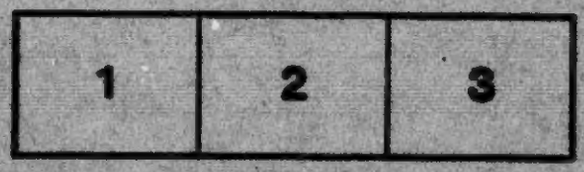

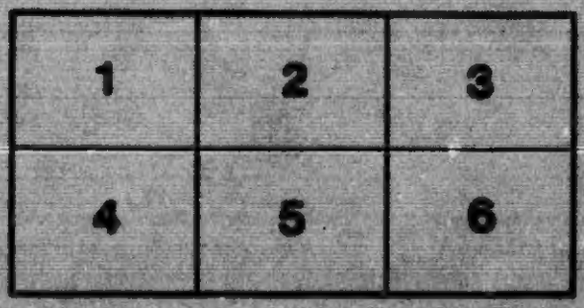

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

MR. E. M. MACDONALD, M.P.

Pictou, N.S.

—ON—

Administration of Timber Lands by Liberal Government

In the House of Commons. May 19th, 1908.

The following is the speech of Mr. E. M. Macdonald, of Pictou, N. S., delivered in the House of Commons on 10th May, 1908, on the subject of timber administration by the Liberal Government. It is a comprehensive and logical presentation of facts, and contains not only a pitiless arraignment of the Conservatives for dropping the investigation and refusing to hear conclusive evidence, but it also includes a complete refutation of every allegation made, and demonstrates clearly that Liberal administration of timber lands has been characterized by integrity and prudence.

RESURRECTED DEAD ISSUE.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou).—I am sure that every member of this House, with the exception of one or two who affect to take special interest in this matter, must have come to the conclusion that the attempt to discuss this question at the present stage of the session is nothing more than an attempt to resurrect an absolutely dead proposition. Ever since this matter was discussed in January and February the universal verdict of the House and the country was that the masterly addresses of the Minister of Interior and of the ex-Minister of the Interior, had entirely disposed of the whole question.

Mr. LANCASTER.—How was the verdict unanimous? Was there not a vote?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Well, my hon. friend sometimes votes differently from what he thinks.

Mr. LANCASTER.—If the hon. gentleman is joking I don't mind that, but if he means it seriously, he will have to take it back.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—My hon. friend is not serious if he concludes that there are many members on his side of the House who have not arrived at the conclusion long ere this that nothing in the shape of a serious argument has been brought forward to-day. Now, Mr. Speaker, following that discussion at that period of the session we had an investigation before the Public Accounts Committee of these fantastic theories and these unnatural insinuations. That investigation went to the point that the hon. member for Montreal, St. Antoine, became almost hysterical in his desire to have it stopped. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake), who has just sat down, in alluding to me as having acted for the government before that committee, made a reference that was entirely unwarranted.

TORIES STOPPED INVESTIGATION.

His colleague, the hon. member for St. Antoine, took advantage of the fact that I, as a humble member of that committee, happened to be out of the committee one day to move that all proceedings should be closed and reported to the House when he himself had four or five witnesses subpoenaed who were still outstanding and whose evidence had not been taken. I leave it to the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Lancaster) whether or not in his experience in legal matters or in investigations of any kind it is usual that the gentleman who is initiating the proceedings, who is acting for the plaintiff, who is given every opportunity in the way of documents and evidence, asks that the proceeding be terminated in such a way.

Mr. LANCASTER.—Since the hon. gentleman has appealed to me, we all know that the hon. member for St. Antoine could not discuss the matter in the House until a report was made by the committee. I think the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) knows that that was his sole and only reason for wanting the matter closed. It was that it could be debated on the floor of the House. We all understand that anyway.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—My hon. friend is very ingenious. He is always ingenious. What I thought that the hon. member for St. Antoine wanted was not to have a discussion in the House, but was to have an investigation and when he had an opportunity of having an investigation he tried to stop it.

Then, after this peculiar proceeding before the investigating committee my hon. friend attempts to resurrect this dead and buried question, and after the statement made by my hon. friend from Dauphin (Mr. Burrows) to-night and after the last vestige of the possibility of insinuation has been swept away, I think my hon. friend ought to do the candid, the fair, the honourable thing and stand up in this House and say that he was entirely unwarranted and unjustified in making the assertions that he did make. Why? My hon. friend very judiciously and insinuatingly couples together the question of the policy of dealing with timber lands and the question of whether or not the regulations made by the department with regard to the letting of these lands by public competition have been complied with and he asks us to talk about the improvident alienation of the immense areas of valuable timber lands.

RESOLUTION OF ADJECTIVES.

I do not think that the hon. member for St. Antoine wrote this resolution. While he is an adept at insinuation and while he possesses the quality of being able to distort language, yet he is not an adept in the use of adjectives. Some hon. gentlemen whose idea of forming resolutions runs usually along the line of superlatives has been drafted for this occasion in order to write this resolution on the "improvident alienation of immense areas of valuable timber limits to the detriment of the people." My hon. friend from St. Antoine has been talking about this question so much that he has probably persuaded himself and, of course, judging from the remarks of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle and the peculiar opinion he has as to what went on in the Public Accounts Committee, he has evidently managed to persuade him that there is something to be said for his position.

Mr. LAKE.—I was present during the whole of the investigation at the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—All I have to say to the hon. member for Qu'Appelle is that either his hearing or his judgment is bad.

Mr. LAKE.—It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Whether the hon. member for St. Antoine has persuaded the hon. member for Qu'Appelle upon this question, he, at least, wishes again to exploit in this House the peculiar statements that he has been making in the country and in regard to which, in the short time at my disposal, I hope to be able to show that the hon. member for St. Antoine has been deliberately misleading the people of this country.

TORIES INAUGURATED TIMBER POLICY.

Let us pass to the consideration of the question as to whether or not the proper policy has been in operation down to 1907 in dealing with the timber lands of the Northwest. Of course my hon. friend would like the people to forget altogether the fact that the policy of dealing with the timber lands of the Northwest was a policy adopted by his party in 1894 and followed exactly along the same lines down to 1907. Of course my hon. friend takes absolute care to suppress the fact before the people of the country that every one of the things which he says should be done in regard to the policy in dealing with these timber lands was accomplished and put into effect months before he spoke in this House by my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver).

LIBERALS REMEDIED DEFECTIVE LAW.

My hon. friend, in an adroit manipulation of the facts and conditions which were the basis of his speech, suppresses, while speaking all over the country and even in this House the fact that these timber lands of such immense value are being exploited by the department in the interest of the treasury of this country and are not being given away to speculators. All the theories which he advanced as to how the latter result could be avoided were brought into effect by my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior months before he ever discussed this question in the House.

REGULATIONS WERE ENFORCED.

Now, coming to the question as to whether there was a proper compliance with the regulations and as to whether every one was treated fairly in the disposal of these limits by the Department of the Interior, I apprehend that it is as to this subject upon which my hon. friend would allege that there should be an invesigation. That is an investigation which he knew, there was no way of having and which he never expected to get when he addressed the House. We had a full and complete investigation upon this subject. Let me call your attention to what has taken place.

After the discussion in this House in the latter part of January my hon. friend went to the Public Accounts Committee and, on February 7, he moved for all the papers relating to payments on account of rental first made by R. E. McCracken, second, by W. Anderson, third, by Perkins, Fraser and Gibson, made in 1907, in the Winnipeg district, fourth, by Charles R. Smith and fifth, by Herman Finger.

ALWAYS PRODUCED ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

On the first day he moved that the original documents in connection with all these payments should be brought down. This original document question

is one that vexes the soul of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. If my hon. friend was in the Public Accounts Committee and I think he was there, he ought to have known and he must have known that there never was a time during this or any other session of this parliament at which original documents moved for in the Public Accounts Committee by any hon. gentleman were not at once produced and brought before that committee for inspection. So that, when the hon. gentleman talks about the long and weary effort to get original documents he ought to know this fact now that there never was a time in this or any other parliament when original documents moved for in the committee were not produced before that committee. The hon. member for Montreal, St. Antoine, got them. He moved for them on February 7.

TWELVE FILES BROUGHT DOWN.

On February 13, what did he do? He moved for further documents regarding payments made by Perkins, Fraser and Gibson, in the Prince Albert district, in addition to the Edmonton district regarding payments made by William Cowan, by the Big River Lumber Company, by John McBain, by Perkins, Fraser and Gibson in the Calgary district and by T. A. Burrows. No less than twelve large files moved for by the hon. gentleman on these two days were brought over to the Public Accounts Committee and inspected by him with his miscroscopic and photographic machines and all the paraphernalia which he has. They were thoroughly and fully investigated. What followed? We have heard talk about attempts at obstruction by the chairman. Did my hon. friend come to the Public Accounts Committee and say: I desire to go into an investigation of these papers with a view of showing this substantive wrong-doing on the part of any hon. gentleman or on the part of the administration? No. On the contrary he said: I want to be permitted to go back to the original advertisement and tenders in order that I may show that the amount paid by the lessee to the government in the way of rental was not the amount that ought to be paid according to the original tender.

Mr. AMES.—Has the hon. gentleman any proof of that statement?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Yes, that will be found in the very first day's proceedings and every hon. gentleman who belongs to the committee knows it, and the chairman of that committee permitted my hon. friend to go back to the original tender and the original advertisement and to the last shred of every document in every one of these files.

Mr. AMES.—Which is far more than you would have done if you could prevent it.

UNFOUNDED ACCUSATION OF OBSTRUCTION.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—This afternoon the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ames) abused the chairman of that committee because he did not rule according to his view, but now he admits that the chairman of the committee permitted him to go back to the very last document and the very last file.

MAINTAINED PARLIAMENTARY TRADITIONS.

And now as to this talk of obstruction which the Conservative press indulges in at the suggestion of hon. gentlemen in this House in reference to myself and other members of that committee who are endeavoring to see that parliamentary usage and rule is observed, and that there should be some regard for the traditions not only of this parliament, but the traditions of the mother of parliaments as well. We are accused of obstruction because forsooth we want to see parliamentary usage followed and because we venture to suggest that irrelevant questions which do not relate to the matter before the committee should not be allowed. But let us remember that when there was a question as to whether two cheques or three cheques inclosed with the tender was suspicious, and when it was sought to show that if this absurd insinuation was to tell against the hon. member for Dauphin it was an insinuation that should be made against most of the other people who tendered; when it was sought to prove this very relevant fact it was the member for St. Antoine and those associated with him in the committee who were the obstructionists.

Mr. AMES.—Will you allow me to make one statement? I want to set you perfectly right in that respect. Never has there been the slightest objection on our side of the House to Mr. Burrows going into the box if he wanted to. You could have called him any time you wished. It was not our business to call him and we did not call him. We never obstructed or objected to any thing.

TORIES FEARED TO ELICIT THE TRUTH.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—The hon. gentleman is now referring to a point which I have not yet mentioned, but I will discuss the singular unwillingness of my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) to not only call Mr. Burrows but several other people whom he knew were in possession of all the evidence and whom he did not call because he did not want to prove the truth.

Mr. AMES.—I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is it right to say that I did not want the truth to come out?

Mr. SPEAKER.—I think that is a suggestion the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) should not make.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I want to observe the rules of this House to the fullest possible extent, and while I do not want to discuss your decision,

Mr. Speaker, and while I shall gladly withdraw anything you think is improper, I must say that I have sat here and heard some hon. gentlemen opposite make use of language in regard to the ministers we follow and with regard to those with whom we are associated (and whom we know to be just as good as they are) which would not seem under that ruling to be parliamentary. In a case like this we are dealing with a tissue of absolute insinuations and nothing else, and I desire to characterise the conduct of some hon. gentlemen opposite in this respect in as plain and clear and definite language as possible, and to treat this question as it is and this story as it is. I want to say that when I hear some hon. gentlemen opposite and when I see the Conservative press of this country describing myself and those associated with me as being obstructionists, I resent any such imputation.

THIN-SKINNED TORIES.

Mr. AMES.—Do I understand that the expression objected to is withdrawn?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—My hon. friend had better wait.

Mr. LAKE.—Withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER.—The suggestion has been made that the hon. gentleman for St. Antoine did not want the truth. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ames) has taken objection to that and I think it is a statement which should be withdrawn.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—With all due deference to you, Mr. Speaker, suppose I said that the hon. member for St. Antoine did not want the country to get the truth that is a statement which I believe is absolutely in order and which I am also sure is absolutely correct.

Mr. AMES.—Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That imputation as to my motives in the matter should not be made.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I think I shall also have to rule that the amended suggestion is an imputation which an hon. member should not make in reference to another hon. member.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Of course, in deference to your ruling I take back the proposition as it is understood by you, Mr. Speaker——

Mr. HENDERSON.—Don't qualify it.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Now that my hon. friend (Mr. Henderson) has interrupted I will go on with my remarks.

Mr. AMES.—Has he taken it back, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER.—I understand the expression has been withdrawn.

Mr. JOHNSTON.—Take your medicine; it's a little bitter.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—While I want to keep within parliamentary rules, Mr. Speaker, yet when I see the good name of hon. gentlemen who sit around me defamed I am inclined to think that the language I have used was not in contravention of the rules of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS.—Order.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I believe that in dealing with this question I have a perfect right to deal with it in the broadest possible way because it is only in the broadest possible way that it can be discussed. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that it is the first occasion since I have had the honour to sit in this House that you have had occasion to direct my attention to any utterance not strictly parliamentary but such has been the line of conduct pursued against my hon. friends here that the offence calls for special treatment.

AMES' METHODS OF INVESTIGATION WERE PREJUDICED.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what were the subjects we had before that committee? I have told you of the different papers that were moved for and that were there to be investigated. Here is a list of files on which were based the imputations made in regard to my hon. friend from Dauphin—the files which relate to berths 1281, 1282, 1118, 1119, 1122, 1031, 1052, 1058, 1068, 1097, 1098, 1103 and 1048. Well in regard to berth 1281 it was discovered that the highest tenderer for that berth was Mr. O. A. Robertson whose tender was $5,195, and the next highest was Mr. D. M. Finnie, tendering for Mr. Burrows at $5,000, and the next tender was $4,013. Mr. O. A. Robertson's tender was only $195 higher than Mr. Burrows' tender, and Mr. Robertson got the berth, and although Mr. Burrows had been in regard to other tenders $400 and $500 higher than the gentleman who was next to him, and although that in the mind of my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) was a cause for deep suspicion, yet because Mr. O. A. Robertson was only $195 more than Mr. Burrows and got the berth we never heard anything more from my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) about berth No. 1281. It was dropped out of mind altogether, no witnesses were examined, no analysis of envelopes and of red ink or black ink. There was no Sherlock Holmes business indulged in by the hon. member for St. Antoine. Indeed, the difference between my friend (Mr. Ames) and Sherlock Holmes is that the hon. gentleman always draws wrong conclusions whereas Sherlock Holmes always seemed to draw right conclusions. My hon. friend did not exhaust much of his energy on Berths 1281 and 1282, because he found that Mr. O. A. Robertson again had bought these and Mr. Burrows had not tendered for the latter, and therefore it was not possible to find any evidence in that connection with the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Burrows) either through relationship or other cause.

TORIES AFTER ONE MAN ONLY.

But with regard to eleven berths we did hear something. He summoned Frans Loyer, P. Robertson, G. U. Ryley, D. M. Finnie. Mr. A. W. Fraser he summoned twice. On March 3rd he subpoenaed Mr. Hector Macdonald, Mr. C. H. Beddoe, Mr. R. A. Campbell. On March 6th he summoned Mr. R. R. Pattinson On the 11th he subpoenaed Mr. Greenway, Sir Daniel McMillan, and later he got after Fraser again and again subpoenaed him, and also D. M. Finnie on two separate occasions. That made thirteen witnesses.

An hon. MEMBER.—At whose expense?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—At the expense of the country, of cour[illegible] nd if the number of the witnesses be a fair indication, the case is an un[illegible]y one for its sponsor. That fatal number was significant of its collapse. [illegible]y hon. friend who is so anxious for an investigation that he even [illegible]ets the [illegible]on. member for Qu'Appelle to move a resolution for further inquiry, what did he do when he had every opportunity to investigate? Why, he only examined six of those witnesses. On the 7th of March Mr. Fraser, after he had been hanging around a day and a half waiting to be called, was told to go away either by the hon. member for St. A[illegible]oine or one of his friends. He was told that they would not have him at all. He was not asked to give a word of evidence about the Nolan tender or the $7,000 being inserted in diff[illegible]ent ink, whether that was done by Fraser or somebody else. After Mr. Fraser had been subpoenaed no less than four different times, and after he had come there and been in waiting on the committee, my hon. friend or some one for him told him to go away, that they did not want him at all, and we would have never heard his testimony if my hon. friend for Lunenburg (Mr. Maclean) had not moved in the matter, and called him to the stand.

Mr. AMES.—I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman has no right to say what would have happened in that case. He has no right to say that I would never have called Mr. Fraser. He has no right to intimate what I would or would not do.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—If my hon. friend is serious about that proposition, I do not think it is wise on his part. Why did he not apply the same rule to himself this afternoon when he was insinuating anything and everything under the sun?

Mr. SPEAKER.—I can hardly see that in this case there is any insinuation.

Mr. LAKE.—I ask your ruling, Sir, as to whether the hon. member is correct in constantly accusing my hon. friend from St. Antoine of insinuations. He accused him constantly of insinuating against hon. gentlemen on that side.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I can hardly apply the rule unless a concrete case is put before me.

Mr. LAKE.—That was the case.

Mr. SPEAKER.—If, when a case comes up, the point is taken, I shall endeavor to rule upon it, but can hardly rule upon some general statements.

TORIES AFRAID TO CALL WITNESSES.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I was referring to the fact that we would not have had Mr. Fraser's evidence unless some hon. gentleman not associated with the hon. member for St. Antoine had insisted upon his going on the stand. Nor did the hon. gentleman put Mr. Loyer or Mr. Robertson on the stand. He or some of his friends pledged their word that these witnesses could give important evidence or the subpoenaes for them could not have been issued. They did the same with regard to Mr. Hector McDonald and Mr. C. H. Beddoe and Mr. Fraser. Mr. McDonald was one of the gentlemen who had tendered on this timber limit No. 1031 we have heard so much about. That was the limit concerning which we had the theory put forward by the hon. gentleman that Mr. Burrows had put in an additional cheque of some $14,000 to the cheque first given in order to cut McDonald out. The hon. gentleman had subpoenaed Mr. McDonald, but although the latter was in attendance from day to day, waiting to be called, he was not asked to give evidence. Neither was Mr. Beddoe put in the box. The hon. gentleman had also a subpoena served on Mr. Pattinson, of Winnipeg, the secretary of the Imperial Pulp Company, and he received a telegram from Mr. Pattinson stating there was illness in his family and his examination would have to be deferred until a certain date, but my hon. friend, at the time indicated by Mr. Pattinson, did not take the slightest interest about his coming, but tried to get the investigation closed, and put up an attack on myself and gentlemen associated with me in that committee as being obstructionists, because we stood in his path and prevented him from closing the investigation. My hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake), whose soul was yearning for information with regard to the Imperial Pulp Company, did not push for the examination of Mr. Pattinson. That was very surprising. One would have thought these gentlemen would have pressed for the examination of Mr. Pattinson, but they did nothing of the kind, and Mr. Pattinson never was called.

MR. TURRIFF ANXIOUS TO TESTIFY.

Then when it was discovered that Fraser's examination disclosed frankly, without the slightest reservation, who the members of the Imperial Pulp

Company were, and that there had never been any doubts about it except in the imagination of some hon. gentlemen opposite, these gentlemen who were talking so much about subpoenaing my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff), never called upon him to give evidence. What then occurred? One would have thought that if the hon. gentlemen were honestly carrying on an investigation into the management of the Department of the Interior down to a period anterior to 1907, the first man he would have called as a witness would have been my hon. friend. But what actually took place? The committee met on March 5 and 6, and no request was made to call him. On March 19, at the next meeting of the committee, my hon. friend asked to be called. At that time we were sailing along under innuendoes and all kind of peculiar constructions, and things were going rather swimmingly for my hon. friend. The hon. member for East Assiniboia, seeing that there was no indication of calling him, said that as his name had been mentioned several times in this connection, that as prejudicial inferences had been drawn, he would like to be heard. What did the hon. member for St. Antoine, who wanted this investigation so badly, say? He said nothing. He never once suggested that he wanted to hear my hon. friend (Mr. Turriff).

TURRIFF'S STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE.

On the next meeting of the committee, March 19, Mr. Turriff said:

"I desire to say that during one of the previous sittings of the committee, Mr. Ames tried to prove by Mr. Ryley, when he was on the stand, that I opened the tenders for these timber limits in secret. I have been here every day expecting Mr. Ames to call me. If he wanted to get the truth, why did he not ask for me to be called? I was not called at the last meeting although I asked to be. I have come here again to-day and I am prepared to come at any time and give evidence under oath and be cross-examined. I have nothing to hide or to be afraid or ashamed of."

WHY DID TORIES FEAR TO CALL HIM?

If the hon. member wanted to get the truth why did he not ask that the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) be called? Here is the hon. gentleman who wants an investigation. Why, when his soul was yearning for this truth which he wanted so much and he had the gentleman at hand to go on the witness stand, why did he not ask for him to be called? Mr. Turriff stated that he was not called at the last meeting although he had asked to be. He invited the fullest examination saying that he had nothing to be ashamed of or afraid of. Would you believe it that my hon. friend still failed to yield to the insistent requests of my hon. friend from the west? It was not until the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. A. K. Maclean) moved in committee on the 19th day of March that Mr. Turriff be summoned to appear before it that we were able to hear Mr. Turriff's evidence. We had a right to expect that my hon. friend who was pushing this investigation and was so anxious to have it, would have called that hon. gentleman, but he did not do so. Then in regard to Mr. Burrows who knew all about the Pulp Company, as my hon. friend was aware, because Mr. Fraser had told us who were the members of the Company.

WHY DID TORIES FEAR TO CALL BURROWS?

I was surprised that my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) did not insist on Mr. Burrows being called. I had suggested several times to the hon. gentleman for St. Antoine division that if he wanted information in regard to these matters he should call Mr. Burrows, but we could not coax the hon. member to call Mr. Burrows, he did not want to hear the story, he was perfectly willing to let all this distortion in regard to envelopes and red and black ink and peculiar dates and alleged difficulties in documents and all that sort of thing to go to the country without explanation. He did not want it and did not have it, but he stood up here to-day, after telling us that the hon. gentleman who was chairman of that committee was eminently fair and gave the fullest opportunity for investigation, and complained that he did not get fair treatment in regard to the question of the examination of Mr. Finnie upon the cheques. What were the facts? Mr. Finnie is manager of the Bank of Ottawa in this city. He said that certain cheques had been issued by him as manager, in place of cheques given by Mr. Burrows. Certain of these cheques were in the bank and they were produced in the committee and given to the committee. As regards the other cheques they were in the possession of Mr. Burrows, being his property and having been handed over to him. We suggested that all they had to do was to call Mr. Burrows and they could obtain the cheques. Mr. Burrows produced them here to-day during this discussion and gave my hon. friends a chance to look at them, but they did not want them; they saw that they were on the wrong side of the story and that they could not make out their case.

TORIES SUGGESTED DROPPING INVESTIGATION.

My hon. friend from St. Antoine division (Mr. Ames) found that the wiser heads around him, the older and shrewder and calmer and perhaps fairer men of his party who had watched the proceedings in the committee,

the men who wanted to give a semblance of fair play to decent people in the country and had heard the evidence, told my hon. friend just where he stood and that it was about time to drop this business. Ever since then, instead of my hon. friend wanting investigation, he has done the best he could to prevent investigation all over the country. Even to-night in regard to this resolution we have a most peculiar situation. Mr. Ames is asking for an investigation when, with all the original documents before him and with six or seven witnesses whom he did not call and with power to subpoena any witness in the country, he had run away from the chance to investigate the matter in the committee. Is it any wonder that I should use language that may be deemed to be trespassing on the rules of debate, is it any wonder that I should say to you that I doubt the sincerity of my hon. friend in this matter?

AMES CONCEALED THE FACTS.

My hon. friend went down to Nova Scotia a few weeks ago and held two meetings there, one on Saturday and one on Sunday afternoon. My hon. friend's Sunday afternoon address was delivered before the Young Men's Christian Association in the city of Halifax, and what was his subject? Hon. members of the Public Accounts Committee on both sides of the House away down in their hearts, even the hon. gentlemen who sit around my hon. friend, will, I am sure, be surprised at the title which my hon. friend took for his speech that Sabbath day. The subject was 'Fair Play.' He went on to speak about fair play in sport, business and politics, and here is a surprising statement to come from my hon. friend in view of my hon. friend's course in this matter both in and outside of the House. He is reported as saying:

"That there was nothing in public life to make him lay aside the principles for which Christianity stands."

Now, I hope that every hon. gentleman in this House stands for the principles for which Christianity stands, and I do not think my hon. friend should have found it necessary to have suggested the possibility of a different attitude on the part of any member of this House. He went on:

"If democratic government is worth anything we must see that the maximum of opportunity is given and unless fair play is recognized this cannot be.—Fair play, respect for ourselves and for the other men."

AMES, HOIST WITH HIS OWN PETARD.

Just think of that, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether my hon. friend from St. Antoine (Mr. Ames) honestly, in his heart of hearts, feels that this man who sits in this parliament as the member for Dauphin (Mr. Burrows) who went up to the Northwest land when it cost something to be a pioneer, who went up there and grew up with the country, grew up with it honestly, grew up with it along legitimate lines, developing proper business conditions, until he reached a position where he received the confidence of the people and was elected as their representative first in provincial politics and subsequently in the broader arena here—I wonder if, following the principles my hon. friend enunciated in Halifax, he in his heart of hearts feels that he was giving fair play to Mr. Burrows.

"Fair play, respect for ourselves and for other men is a fundamental principal which must be observed in the interests of our country."

AMES AND THE "GOLDEN RULE."

I agree with that doctrine; I agree that unless we have fair play all around in politics it will be very bad for the interests of this country, and I know that there is a good old Golden Rule, one which should always guide our actions in politics or anything else, that we should do unto others as we would they should do unto us, and I am in the judgment of this House and of any hon. gentleman who is familiar with this subject whether without being in anywise unfair to my hon. friend, there has been an exemplification of those Christian principles which some of us are not so loud in proclaiming from the house tops but perhaps observe as well as he does, or an exemplification of the principles of that Golden Rule or that fair consideration of the rights and position and good name and fair name of hon. members of this House who have been wantonly attacked and insinuated against by the hon. member for St. Antoine division (Mr. Ames). Nineteen hundred years ago there were men going up and down the country who thanked God that they were not as other men were and they received their just rebuke from the great Teacher who came to lead us all along the way we should go and in the land from which my forefathers came the poet of our race has sung of 'Holy Willie' and his prayers. I want to say in the light of the evidence I am going to endeavor to present to you that we have to-day in this twentieth century some people who bear a strong resemblance to these men who lived in the olden days.

AMES' MISREPRESENTATIONS IN HALIFAX.

Now, my hon. friend, speaking at Halifax, endeavored to lead the people of the province of Nova Scotia to believe that there were not to-day upon the statute-books of this country fair and proper regulations in regard to the disposition of timber limits. Why did not my hon. friend tell his Halifax audience about the regulations made by the Minister of the Interior, last

December? Why did not he tell them that the Minister of the Interior, even before he (Mr. Ames) had said a word in this House upon this question, had provided for preliminary investigation and survey before timber limits were put up for sale, had provided for reports to be kept in the department, had provided for sales by auction, had provided for the compulsory establishment of mills and in the event of non-compliance the cancellation of the leases? If he was so strong an advocate of fair play, why did he not tell the people of Nova Scotia all this?

But what did he tell the people of my province? He told them that over 6,500 square miles of timber had been granted by this government. Whereas, I find, at page 2271 of 'Hansard' that he said that 1,840 square miles had been leased previously to 1896—that is, there were only 4,562 square miles of timber to be charged to this government according to his own statement on record in 'Hansard' in this House. But he came down to the province of Nova Scotia, and, in the city of Halifax, told the people that the quantity granted by this government was 6,500 square miles, which was 1938 square miles out of the way and to that extent incorrect. Was that fair play to the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) and the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton)? Was it fair play to the people of Nova Scotia?

IMMENSE HOLDINGS BY TORIES.

And, if he so strongly desires fair play, why did he not tell the people that there are to-day in Ontario and Quebec men belonging to his own political party who own in their own right individually more square miles of timber than have been granted by this government since it came into power in 1896? Would you not think, Mr. Speaker, that a gentleman who enunciated these glorious principles—principles to which no one will take exception—should be the first to stand by them and should be most careful that there should be no departure in his statements from that accuracy which we have a right to expect from a public man? He did not tell the people that we have in Nova Scotia, in the person of Mr. T. G. McMullen, a Conservative and a former member of the local legislature, a man who is said to own in his own right 150,000 acres of land, not by lease, but by absolute title. And my hon. friend knows, when he was talking about this 6,500 square miles of timber limits that he was astray to the extent of 1,938 square miles. He knew, when he was telling the people of Nova Scotia of the alleged enormity of the grants in the Northwest, that there were in his own province of Quebec men who own timber lands equal in extent to all this aggregate of grants by this government of which he was speaking.

Mr. AMES.—Mr. Speaker, is the hon. gentleman in order in saying I knew I was leading the people astray?

Mr. SPEAKER.—I think that if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) said that the hon. member for St. Antoine (Mr. Ames) said that he knew he was leading the people astray, that would be an unparliamentary expression.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I simply assumed that my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) knew what he was saying——

Some hon. MEMBERS.—No, no.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—If he did not know what he was saying, then there is nothing more to be said about it. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, that is the most charitable view to take of it—that he did not know what he was saying.

Mr. AMES.—Do I understand that the hon. gentleman——

Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) used the expression that it has been suggested he used, or not. If he did, I think that expression exceeds the bounds of parliamentary discussion, and, of course, should be withdrawn.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I am very much surprised, Mr. Speaker, at the objection taken by my hon. friend. I ventured to make the statement that my hon. friend had said in Nova Scotia that 6,500 square miles of timber had been granted by this government, though he knew at the time that there were men in Ontario and Quebec who held timber of an area equal to that——

Some hon. MEMBERS.—Oh, oh.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Unless my hon. friend wants to take the position that he did not know what he was talking about, I do not understand the point he is now raising

Mr. LENNOX.—What the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald) did say—I think he will agree that I understood him correctly—was that when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ames) made the statement he knew that he was representing the leases by this government to be 1,938 square miles more than they actually were. He ought to take that back.

Mr. LAKE.—I understood the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) to state that the hon. member for St. Antoine (Mr. Ames) made a statement which he knew to be untrue.

LECTURE ON MORALITY FOR AMES.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Not at all, Mr. Speaker, I want to keep myself right, and I bow to your suggestion that I should take back any expression I may have used that is an infraction of the Rules of the House. My only

desire is to discuss the material before me. My comment was based on the statement of the hon. member as it appeared in 'Hansard' and what I have under my hand as representing what he stated in the city of Halifax. When he spoke in Nova Scotia he attempted to give the impression to the people that this quantity of land had been given away by this government covering all the timber lands to be found in the Northwest Territories. There is no question about that. I am not going to take up time quoting the statements he made; I simply say that he endeavored to convey the impression to the people of my province that this government, since 1896, had given away all the available timber land found in the Northwest country. If I am not stating a correct conception of my hon. friend's language, I speak subject to correction

TIMBER AREAS YET AVAILABLE.

My hon. friend knew that that was the idea he was attempting to put forth, and also knew that the superintendent of forestry had been discussing that question not so very long before and had reported that, over and above the timber land granted, there remained 722,578 square miles of timber in the Northwest country and that of this 130,000 square miles were of the very best timber land. That is even making allowance for all the small timber, the scrub and that fit only for pulp and other purposes of that kind, there still remains 130,000 square miles of the best timber lands, after allowing for every foot of land granted not only by this government since 1896 but also by every government since 1867. Yet my hon. friend, not only there but all up and down this country, attempted to show that this government had wasted the timber lands of the Northwest, and had given away to political favorites all the available timber lands; and he sympathized with the poor settler, because when he goes now to the Northwest he finds there is no timber, it has all been given away to Mr. Burrows. Now, was my hon. friend carrying out the Golden Rule, was he playing the game fair when he attempted to lead the people of Nova Scotia to believe that there was no available timber land in the Northwest to-day owing to the action of this government, whereas he knew that not one-thirtieth of the total available timber lands in the Northwest had been affected by all the grants made by this government?

FURTHER MISREPRESENTATIONS DEMONSTRATED.

Then he attempted to lead the people of Nova Scotia to believe that these lands, which he said had been given away, had passed into the absolute ownership of Mr. Burrows and his friends for all time. I will quote what he said:

"Often times he was the only tenderer. At other times several offers for paltry sums would be received, but as a rule the man who wanted a berth though a form of public competition was gone through with, would secure the limit, at his own price, and once having obtained it he was practically the owner forever."

Mr. AMES.—I say that statement is absolutely true.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—He wanted the people of my province to run away with the idea that every one of these 6,500 square miles of land had gone to Mr. Burrows and his associates and had become their property and the property of their heirs and assigns for ever. Now what are the facts? My hon. friend knows that they were not the owners in fee simple of the land, they were only tenants. He knows, but he did not tell the people of Nova Scotia, that over and above any possible bonus that might be paid in public competition every man who had received timber lands from this government since 1896 was bound to pay $5 per square mile for ground rent, and had to pay it annually; not only that, but the lease runs from year to year, it was not even a twenty-one years lease, but was a yearly lease, and could only be renewed from year to year by compliance with all the regulations which were contained in the lease granted by the government. He did not tell the people that every man who had a timber limit was obliged to cut lumber upon it and pay to the government fees, under the provisions of section 20 of the regulations for sawn lumber fifty cents per thousand feet board measure. Railway ties 8 feet long, one and one-half cents each. Railway ties 9 feet long, one and three-quarters cents each. Shingle bolts twenty-five cents per cord, and five per cent. on the sale of all other products of the berth. In addition to that, there were provisions in regard to putting up a mill which my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior attended to last year by giving notice to the holder of limits requiring them to put up a mill. In face of all this, what possible grounds had my hon. friend, this apostle of the gospel of fair play, to tell the people of Nova Scotia that when a man got a lease from year to year of timber limits he practically became the owner for ever?

Mr. AMES.—So long as there was merchantable timber upon it.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—According to the regulations made by the department a lease can be cancelled whenever the government sees fit, if the conditions are not performed under which the lease is held. My hon. friend wished to lead the people of Nova Scotia to believe that all these gentlemen owned in fee simple for themselves, their heirs and assigns for ever, these 6,500 square miles of land that had been given away by this government.

Mr. AMES.—Absolutely untrue, for I showed them the form of the lease.

Mr. FIELDING.—The hon. gentleman characterises a statement made by my hon. friend from Pictou as absolutely untrue. His words are equally objectionable to those that he has complained of himself.

Mr. AMES.—I say that the member for Pictou was misinformed, inasmuch as I showed the people the very form of the regulation.

Mr. FIELDING.—I understand that he takes back his previous statement.

Mr. AMES.—Certainly.

AMES WRONGFULLY ACCUSES BURROWS.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I am glad to see that my hon. friend is willing to take back something that is palpably wrong.

Again, my hon. friend told the people down in Nova Scotia that thirty per cent. of the transactions were legitimate, that twenty per cent. of the lease holders were reserve men, and fifty per cent. were speculators. Of course these are figures he has made up himself, he has no data whatever to back them up. He has never given to this House any list of the people whom he put down in the class of speculators, or as reserve holders, or whom he put down as honest lumbermen. This is a pure figment of his imagination. And to show how ridiculous his position is let me quote what he says again:

"Foremost among these speculators is T. A. Burrows, M. P., the brother-in-law of the Hon. Clifford Sifton, who, in his own name, and as a member of various companies owns or controls nearly 1,600 square miles, or twenty-five per cent. of all the timber under lease in three provinces."

Now, I thing that the hon. gentleman owes the amende honorable to my hon. friend from Dauphin, in view of the latter's positive statement to-night that he does not own 1,600 square miles of timber limits, but only 640. I hope that the hon. gentleman will do the square thing by my hon. friend from Dauphin. When he attempted to show that Mr. Burrows has been speculating in land he was doing something that he knew was not fair, he knew that he was not playing the game fair; because I leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, whether, in view of Mr. Burrows' record as he has given it to us to-night, going out into the Northwest as a pioneer, spending his whole life in the lumber business, growing up with the country, he is open to the insinuation of the hon. gentleman that Mr. Burrows is not a bona fide operator in timber limits. This is the impression that he wanted the people of Nova Scotia to get from his remarks because the hon. gentleman did not want to tell the people there that Mr. Burrows was one of the largest operators in timber limits.

Mr. AMES.—I did.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I have the report of the hon. gentleman's utterances in the Halifax 'Herald.'

Mr. AMES.—I have the lantern slide that I showed.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—You have the lantern slide?

Mr. AMES.—Yes.

Some hon. MEMBERS.—Bring them on.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I am afraid that the dignity of parliament would hardly permit of an exhibition of this kind. But the point I wanted to make was this, that the official organ of the Conservative party in Nova Scotia says that foremost amongst these speculators was T. A. Burrows, who we here and the people of Manitoba know to be the mill owner, the mill operator, the man whose men did the cutting upon these limits to supply his mills. That is the type of man the member of Dauphin is. But the member of St. Antoine described him as T. A. Burrows, brother-in-law of the Hon. Clifford Sifton, the man who got these limits when he had no right to get them and the man who got these limits not as a mill man but as a speculator.

Mr. AMES.—How about 1948?

AMES ADVANCES RIDICULOUS AUTHORITY.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—We had a curious exhibition with regard to 1948. My hon. friend produced a letter presumably from some one in the Northwest Territories telling us about the price at which lumber was selling and his informant turned out to be not a man from the Northwest but a young man from Amherst, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, who happens to be the Conservative candidate there and who knows no more about timber lands in the Northwest than my hon. friend knows about some of the people in Nova Scotia. My hon. friend talks about giving authority in making statements. My hon. friend's conduct to-night in regard to that question is a fair indication of how much reliance we can put upon some of the statements and suggestions put forward on this subject.

Mr. AMES.—The Red Deer Lumber Company is made up of a number of people from Amherst, N. S. Even the people of Nova Scotia are interested in these timber limits, and if a company is formed and if the stockholders are there are they not in a position to say what they have paid for lumber?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—If it had not been for the suggestion of my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Harty) that the letter had better be read and the name of the gentleman who wrote the letter had better be given, the hon. member for St. Antoine would have allowed this House to get away with the

idea that some expert lumberman in the Northwest had written that letter. I say that my hon. friend's conduct upon this subject was characteristic of and in keeping with his whole conduct in the discussion of this question. My hon. friend had no right to characterize Mr. Burrows as being a speculator. If my hon. friend from Dauphin (Mr. Burrows) is not a bona fide lumberman in this country I would like to know where you are going to find them and it was a matter of pure malevolence on the part of the hon. member for St. Antoine that he should have gone down to Nova Scotia where Mr. Burrows was not known, and, instead of playing the game fairly and telling the people that Mr. Burrows was one of the foremost lumber operators in the Northwest, he entirely suppressed that fact and told the people of Nova Scotia that he was not a bona fide operator, but a speculator.

MR. MACDONALD DISSECTS THE EVIDENCE.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I must not keep the House at this late hour, but this is a subject that perhaps had better be threshed out. I have dealt with the way in which my hon. friend exemplifies the principles of fair play.

One of his charges is the making of leases with fictitious persons and this idea of fictitious persons seem also to have got into the head of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. I think my hon. friend has hardly got over the wrong impressions that some people get on coming out from the old country. I am afraid that he requires to be educated along certain lines yet. He has been travelling in bad company, because if he had not he would not have given to this House, the peculiar impressions he did give with reference to what took place in the Public Accounts Committee. He told us that there was a considerable number of fictitious persons. I always understood that when you spoke of fictitious persons you had reference to persons who did not exist.

Mr. LAKE.—I do not think I used the word "fictitious," I used the word "aliases."

Mr. E. M. MACDONALDLD.—Well, we will take that. My hon. friend has got into a worse hole because he must know that when we speak of a man using an alias we refer to an existent person using the name of another person who is or is not existent.

Mr. LAKE.—I merely wanted to correct the hon. gentleman.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—My hon. friend is welcome to any correction that he thinks he has made in that regard. I am afraid that he is getting into the mire a little farther He will have to get away from the influences that surround him because, while I regard my hon. friend as being sincerely desirous of doing that which is right, I think he gets off pretty often. My hon. friend got the idea from the hon. member for St. Antoine about the fictitious persons. The delightfully natural way in which the hon. member for St. Antoine insinuates and suggests and makes innuendoes of a most improper character is found at page 47 of the Minutes when we were discussing the question of evidence. Mr. Ames says:

"I want to prove the facts—you have finished with what is on the margin of that bid, have you Mr. Campbell?"

Mr. Campbell says:

"I have answered all the questions I was asked."

The discussion went on and then Mr. Ames said:

"Supposing John McBain never wrote that bid at all, supposing he is a fictitious person altogether?"

The Chairman says:

"That does not make any difference so far as this inquiry is concerned. The money has been paid, that is the question we are investigating.

Mr. AMES.—The question is, was the government making leases with fictitious persons?

"I believe that the hon. member for St. Antoine thought, down to a short time ago, because with that naturally suspicious mind of his, he is certain to go wrong, that the government had made leases with fictitious persons. How in the world does he imagine that the Minister of the Interior was going to avoid giving a lease to a man who came in, no matter what name he used and paid his money, he being the highest bidder at the sale? I would like to know how my hon. friend would be held responsible if any person came along at an auction and bid or had some one else bid for them. But my hon. friend suggests that this government were making leases with fictitious persons though he knows now they did not. My hon. friend went down to Halifax and misled them there upon this subject although he knew days before that it was sworn to by Mr. Fraser in answer to a question by myself, because I felt that the hon. member for St. Antoine ought to be corrected and that that terrible body of suspicion ought to be removed from his mind, that Mr. McBain was not a fictitious person. I asked the question: Who is John McBain? Mr. Fraser said upon oath:

"John McBain is a millwright and contractor by occupation, and for some time previous and at that time had been carrying on building operations and real estate in the city of Ottawa in which he and I were interested."

So that he was not a fictitious person after all, nor an alias either.

ALL TENDERS WERE REGULAR.

We have heard a good deal about the tenders being in irregular form, and it is said that because the tenders were not on the regular form of the department there should be investigation. Now, it appears to me that if a man were going about the task of misleading the department, if he could get a printed form of tender, is it not common sense that the man who was going to do wrong would take the proper form to do it on? He might want to juggle with the amount, but what sense there would be in writing informal tenders if he wanted to do wrong is more than I can conceive. Any one who takes the trouble to think must come to the conclusion that any such inference as the hon. member (Mr. Ames) draws from that is so absolutely foreign to what a sane business man would suggest that it is impossible for me to imagine how my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) could put such an idea forth. Here is the proposition he lays down: A brother-in-law of the minister wants to get a timber limit and he wants to get it through connivance with an official in the department and instead of writing out his tender upon the printed form and leaving the name blank—which according to the theory of my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) would be the proper thing—Mr. Burrows wrote the tender hurriedly, did not see that every "i" was dotted and every "t" crossed, and therefore it must be assumed that there was wrong-doing. I say that proposition is absurd and untenable.

FAIRY TALES FROM TORY PRESS.

Then we heard something about Mr. William Sifton, the brother of the Hon. Clifford Sifton, and my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) read this afternoon, and it is quite characteristic of him, the fairy tale that some Dr. McInnes, Edmonton, told about some man named Maloney, who came to Ottawa, and although his statements and everything were wrong in connection with the story it was thought to be something to base an insinuation on. Why, this Dr. McInnes was the gentleman who said in Edmonton that the Imperial Pulp Company was made up of William Sifton, the brother of the Hon. Clifford Sifton, and prominent gentlemen of the Conservative party went up and down talking about William Sifton, the brother of Clifford Sifton being interested in the Pulp Company, and it did not make any difference to them that the Hon. Clifford Sifton had denied that story in parliament on his honour as a member, nor did it make any difference to them that the Hon. Clifford Sifton never had a brother named "William Sifton."

AMES BECAME CHILDISHLY SUSPICIOUS.

Then the hon. gentleman for St. Antoine (Mr. Ames) was strong on envelopes. When the unfortunate official in the Public Accounts Committee had gone through these documents with the greatest possible care the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ames) said: Let me see the envelopes, and if there was a tear here or a pencil mark there, the hon. gentleman noted it down. He had the science down so fine that he distinguished between an envelope provided by the department and marked "tender for timber berth" and an envelope with the simple stamp of the department on the outside, and he inferred something from that, and then of course if the envelope did not bear any official mark at all there was another inference to be drawn and the inference was always against the government. As to the question of different cheques with each tender we had a frank statement on that subject from the hon. member for Dauphin and we have the evidence of Mr. Fraser and we had other evidence which went to show that it was a common practice of the people tendering here and elsewhere to use different cheques in the tenders. But here is the amusing part of it—my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) was perfectly willing to insinuate that because Mr. Burrows had used three cheques when he put in his tender he was a frightful speculator and a man whom the people of Canada ought to condemn. But when we wanted to show that it was a common practice for other people to use different cheques in putting in their tenders, who was the obstructionist who wanted to prevent that evidence going in? None other than the great investigator from St. Antoine.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE PROVED.

Let me read from the record. My hon. friend (Mr. Ames) had just said:

"Will you turn us the envelopes and tell us whether there were any marks on it?"

And the answer was:

"There is a memorandum 'received 7-8-03 at 11:30,' I think it is."

Then says my hon. friend from St. Antoine:

"In——

And of course the clerk knew what he meant and he said:

"In pencil."

Then the hon. member for St. Antoine said:

"You recognize the writing?"

And the clerk answered:

"I cannot say whose writing it is."

And then Mr. Ames said:

"It is in black lead pencil"

And what do you think the clerk answered; he answered, yes. Now, this is very significant, for if it had been r pencil or blue pencil instead of black, just fancy the frightful consequences. Then I asked:

"Just turn to the tender of the Macdonald Brothers on that file."

And the record says:

Mr. Ames objected to the question on the ground that he had been refused permission to examine witnesses with reference to other tenders than the successful ones."

Mr. AMES.—Quite so.

CUSTOMARY TO PUT IN SEVERAL CHEQUES.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—My hon. friend (Mr. Ames) objected to my asking a question as to other people having put three cheques in, not because that he thought I should have the right to ask him upon that grodnd, but he says:

"I object because I have been refused to ask in regard to other tenders."

Then I went on to say:

"I want to say upon this question that when my hon. friend asks a question which is practically irrelevant to the inquiry, as he did when he asked Mr. Campbell how many cheques made up the $15,000 bonus——"

And you will remark, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend had brought out from Mr. Campbell that the $15,000 bonus was made up of three different cheques. Then I said:

"I want to show him that if there is any significance about there being three cheques making up the aggregate of the bonus it does not apply to that particular tender alone because in the McDonald Brothers' tender, which is on the file alongside that of Mr. Burrows, there were three cheques inclosed which made up the amount of $13,500."

Mark, because my hon. friend from Dauphin puts in three cheques which make up $15,000, then according to the member from St. Antoine you are to infer there was all kinds of villainy. But when another gentleman puts in three cheques footing up $13,500, the hon. member (Mr. Ames) thinks there is nothing significant about that at all. I said:

"Perhaps my hon. friend will withdraw his question as to the number of cheques?"

Because I thought my hon. friend ought to have some appreciation of the ridiculous position in which he was in view of the evidence. Then I said:

"Perhaps my friend will withdraw his question as to the number of cheques, but if he does not, I think it is quite proper to show that these cheques also accompanied another tender for the same berth, and that the sending of three cheques making up the amount of the bonus, is not confined to Mr. Burrows. If you go through these files you will find that in almost every case there is more than one cheque making up the amount of the bonus. That is why I want to ask the question. If Mr. Ames is willing to withdraw the irrelevant question, I do not wish to go further on this line."

Mr. AMES.—Would the hon. gentleman kindly read the next five lines?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—Certainly. My hon. friend then said:

"If the hon. gentleman wants to put this upon record I have no objection, but in that case I shall find it necessary to bring Mr. McDonald here in order to show that in every instance where there is more than one cheque whenever there have been two cheques inclosed with his tender it has been because he has had partners in the transaction, each of whom has forwarded his cheque and that there could not possibly be any collusion."

Now the great trouble with the member for St. Antoine was he had Mr. Macdonald sitting around waiting for days and never put him on oath and never called him.

Mr. AMES.—Does the hon. gentleman remember that the chairman, at the beginning of the inquiry, said that he would not permit any one to be examined except the successful tenderer, and consequently we were not permitted to call any other tenderer who had not succeeded in getting a limit.

AMES' DEFECTIVE MEMORY.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I do not remember anything of the kind. I do not remember his having asked that Mr. Macdonald be called and he did not call him? If he had, he would have had the assistance of those present on the government side to have him examined. I can go through this evidence and show where my hon. friend's innuendoes were unfair and his insinuations unjust.

FOSTER MAKES FOUL ASPERSIONS.

Let us take this innuendo regarding the way tenders were opened. There was no subject dwelt upon so earnestly and concerning which so much suspicion was sought to be aroused, as the method in which the tenders were opened. The wail of my hon. friend on that subject was almost equal to that of my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) about original documents and equally as misplaced. What did the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr.

Foster) say on that question? He made a very violent speech. He dwelt with that question along lines it is perhaps just as well to recall. My hon. friend (Mr. Ames) was a little more cautious than his leader on the front benches but this is what the hon. member for North Toronto said:

"And that gentleman was formerly——"

He was there referring to my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff).

"And that gentleman was formerly a trusted employee who went into his own private room, locked the door, kept all inconvenient witnesses away and adjudicated upon the application of his brother-in-law and other relatives and party friends. I say, and I do not fear to say it, that the exhibition he made of himself in this House and in Stanstead for the advantage of his party, stamps him as a partisan who in the inmost recesses of his unwatched room, would not be beyond doing something for the good of a party supporter in the matter of tenders."

In another place he said:

"When all that took place, a strong partisanship dying every fibre of his body, he was put into a darkened and secluded room and given the full power of making a decision in reference to these matters."

I need not quote the remarks of my hon. friend on this subject, though it might be as well to put them on record because I am sure, if he has any sense of fair play, he will have the manliness to stand up and declare that all the insinuations and allusions he and his confrere had made concerning the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) have been shown to be absolutely unfounded. But I shall not take time to hunt his remarks up. What was the position of affairs? I have told you the difficulty we had in getting Mr. Turriff on the stand. My hon. friends refused to call him, but he came on the stand, and then it was evident why they did not want him. They first put Mr.Riley on the stand and he told how this matter of tenders and so forth was absolutely fair.

DARK AND SECLUDED ROOM A MYTH.

When Mr. Greenway came on, they discovered that their fairy tales about secluded and darkened chambers and locked doors were even more creations of the imagination than one would have supposed, and that at all times in that department there was no secrecy and that there was always two persons present when the tenders were opened. When they heard Mr .Greenway's evidence, the courage of the hon. member for St. Antoine (Mr. Ames) and others began to ooze out and they wanted to close the investigation. They knew what Mr. Turriff was going to say and they were anxious to avoid hearing him. If we are to have any practical illustration of the glorious principle of fair play, it is up to the men who in this House slandered the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) by these insinuations regarding private chambers and locked doors, with which they flooded the press of this country some three months ago, to stand up in this House and declare that their impressions were wrong and the statements they made utterly unfounded.

EVERYTHING DISCLOSED TO COMMITTEE.

Then my hon. friend in connection with limit 1031 told a story about a Mr. Mooney coming from Edmonton, and a cheque for $25,000 and a $6,000 cheque. Why there were never such cheques at all. My hon. friend from St. Antoine wants to give the impression that there was something terribly wrong. Mark you, he said Mr. Burrows first sent a cheque for $17,000. Look, he said, at the similarity of the tenders, look at the fact that Mr. Ross' tender was $17,010, and that Mr. Burrows cheque was $17,575, just enough to beat Mr. Ross. Then Mr. Burrows gives the $14,000 cheque because McDonald brothers came in and tendered at $31,161 and Burrows had to bid higher. So he gave the $14,000 cheque and in support of that story the hon. gentleman gave his yarn about Mooney coming down from Edmonton. My hon. friend would like people to believe that, but unfortunately when he got fooling around the envelope, it was shown that the two first tenders were received in the department fifteen minutes after eleven on the 31st December, and that this tender of McDonald brothers of $31,161 did not get in until twenty minutes later. Not only that but Mr. Finnie the manager of the Ottawa Bank came before the committee with the cheques, and the cheques on their face showed that they were issued the day before the tenders were put in, so that it was absolutely an illusion to suppose that the second cheque was put in to be added to the first in order that the amount of Mr. Burrows' tender might exceed that of McDonald brothers. That was in regard to timber limit 1031. I could take you to 1022, 1122 and 1147, where my hon. friend built better than he knew and in his anxiety to hunt all around among envelopes produced the evidence that was his undoing, so far as his theories were concerned.

CLOSE BIDDING IS QUITE USUAL.

Then we have this question of close bidding. We had thirteen timber limits before us. In two of those Mr. Burrows was not the highest tenderer and did not get them, so we need not worry about them. In nine of these timber limits he was the highest and he got them, and how much do you

suppose he was higher than the people who were next to him in all these competitions? In those nine cases he paid $8,134 more than the total amount of the next lowest tenderers. That is a pretty substantial amount for a man to pay, and I think the argument of the close bidding is rather far-fetched. What will my hon. friend think of this case, for instance? A timber limit, range 10, lot 21, was sold by the Ontario government on February 11, 1907. The tenderers on that occasion were as follows:

Name.	Logs, per 1,000 feet.	Board, pine, per 1,000 feet.
Foss	$10 52	$35 00
Morgan Lumber Company	10 00	25 00
George Gordon	9 00	40 00
Michigan Land and Lumber Company	9 85	30 00
Burton	9 27	27 00
Shannon	9 10	35 00
Thessalon Lumber Company	8 80	2 50
Gilles	8 26	2 00
Perry Lumber Company	8 20	2 00
McCool	8 00	2 00
McFadden	7 70	2 00

The result of the above tenders was not announced till the following day. The Foss Lumber Company, Bay City, Michigan, was the successful tenderer. The Michigan Land and Lumber Company and the Morgan Lumber Company are one and the same, S. O. Fisher, of West Bay City, Michigan, being vice-president and general manager of the Morgan Lumber Company and president and general manager of the Michigan Land and Lumber Company.

COMPARISON WITH ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.

The pine on Franklin Island, Georgian bay, was sold by the Ontario government by tender, September 8, to McGibbon, of Penetanguishene, Ontario, who bid $12.26 per 1,000 feet, the next tender was $12.12 per thousand feet, and followed by another for $12.06 per 1,000. I would suggest to my hon. friend that he should go up there and bring all his great powers of introspection and all his paraphernalia to bear on these cases, and tell us what the Whitney government do when bidding is close.

IMPERIAL PULP COMPANY STRONG CONCERN.

My hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) is worried about the Imperial Pulp Company. We have heard many innuendoes and suggestions in reference to that. The suggestion that Governor McMillan was a member of the company and his alleged connection with it was discussed. There has never been any mystery about this company. We had full evidence in respect to it before the committee, and in the records of parliament for 1903, on the very first page of the report of the Secretary of State, there is a statement showing the incorporation of the company, the original shareholders and directors, all of them being in Toronto, and no attempt being made at secrecy. The mind that is so crooked and warped as to be able to draw some wrong intent from the association together of two men like Mr. Burrows and Governor McMillan, who has so long borne an honored name in Manitoba, has reached a depth where he is entitled to the sympathy of any hon. gentleman. What mystery was there about the connection of these gentlemen with the company? Do the opposition expect Governor McMillan and Mr. Burrows to go around the country with a sign out: saying we are members of the Imperial Pulp Company; or do they expect them to do business as any ordinary business people would do, with an office? Where was the secrecy and mystery, except in the minds of the men who wanted to conjure up evil and could not attribute to decent men in this country the ordinary methods of doing business? They regarded it as suspicious that the tenders were signed by R. R. P. How is any tender by a company to be signed except by the secretary, or the company through the secretary, and when these gentlemen had the opportunity of bringing Mr. R. R. Pattinson before the committee they did not bring him, but were content to go around heralding these miserable innuendoes, these subversions of every principle of fair play, as they are doing outside this House and, in a somewhat timid way, in this House to-night.

EVERY TENDERER TREATED FAIRLY.

During this whole discussion not one man has been produced to show that he was unfairly treated in the tendering. It was open to my hon. friends to have brought before the committee any man to be found between Montreal and Vancouver who had any evidence that would indicate that the Department of the Interior had acted wrongly or unfairly in regard to the awarding of these timber limits. but no such person existed except in the wild imagination of my hon. friends, who had built up this fabric of suspicion which is falling and crumbling to pieces.

NO SALES MADE AS ALLEGED.

There has not been one actual case of land sales at the enormous prices

quoted by these hon. gentlemen up and down the country, they are mere figments of the imagination. These gentlemen have taken the exaggerated descriptions to be found in the real estate offices in Winnipeg which might be found in reference to any property in boom times. In a distant province like Nova Scotia they quote these as if they were fair values and endeavor to lead our people to the belief that there have been actual transactions at these figures. There has been an absolute and complete failure of all these insinuations that have been made in regard to this matter.

Then we have the use of the photographs of the tenders by my hon. friend from St. Antoine. It is insinuated that because a man writes off a document informally, whether because he is illiterate or busy, it is suggested there is something improper. I have dealt with the question of whether there can be any inference or wrongdoing on that account and, in view of all that has occurred, I venture to say that the conduct of (Mr. Ames) in the use of these photographic documents is such that he knows that it can only convey to the mind of the man who has studied this question an entirely erroneous impression of the true facts of the case.

Mr. AMES.—Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Is it permissible for the hon. gentleman to say that I know I am conveying an erroneous impression?

Mr. SPEAKER.—The hon. member will see, of course, that this is an insinuation that is not proper.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I think I can say that my hon. friend, if he does not know, is reckless whether he knows or not.

Mr. AMES.—Is that proper.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I think a statement that the hon. member might be reckless might be in order.

UNWORTHY INTERPRETATION OF EVIDENCE.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—I am sure that all reasonable men will agree that there should be a limit to this particular policy that has been introduced into the politics of this country, a novelty, it would seem, introduced under the peculiar conditions that have been developed within recent times. I have never heard such an unworthy and unjust interpretation put upon evidence as was given this afternoon. No man who wanted to be judicial, who wanted to be fair to his fellow man would try to establish the conclusion sought to be established here from the evidence that is before us. If I were counsel in such a case as this, I would go before any fair-minded jury in this country, confident that the verdict would be that no case had been made out that was worthy of the attention of any reasonable man. So far as the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Burrows) and other members of this House are concerned, honorable men who have been recklessly maligned by people who go up and down this country loudly announcing the principles of fair play and the exemplification of the doctrine of the Golden Rule, I have never known a more unfair and unjust attack than those that we have heard made in this case.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND PRACTICE JUSTIFIED.

Both in policy and practice the course of this government on this subject has been amply justified. The Minister of the Interior anticipated the opposition by months in regard to the changes in the regulations as made necessary by the changed conditions, which fact is carefully suppressed. Why the west was found by the Liberal party——

Mr. BENNETT.—Hear, hear.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD.—My hon. friend from East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) is always ready to say 'hear, hear.' I would call his attention to the fact which he knows full well that the west was a pretty poor place when it was taken in hand by the present government. There were but few people there. And now the people are coming in in such numbers that we are making a new province every 365 days that go to make up a year. With the increasing population you have a change of conditions which makes a change of methods necessary. The Minister of the Interior has anticipated these conditions and any improvement that hon. members opposite have been able to suggest was made a part of the government working policy before it was discussed in the House by these gentlemen.

STRONG APPEAL FOR CLEAN POLITICS.

It seems to me that in the name of everything that is fair and decent, in the name of fair play and the Golden Rule, this policy of innuendo, insinuation and misrepresentation ought to cease. Men of all parties should come to a realization that we cannot advance in Canada unless we are prepared to treat our brethren though differing in politics as entitled to fair play, unless we realize that in dealing with public questions we must deal with them as men, and, I hope, as gentlemen. If we do this, Canada will be better off, parliament will be better off, and some hon. members of this House will be free of the consciousness which I am sure now rests on some of them, that they have not practised what they preach.